

Indian Health Care Reform Concept

There is a new opportunity to expand and strengthen sovereignty by allowing tribes and native communities to take immediate ownership of the many resources that are now available from the new health care reform laws and the permanent reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act and to contribute to the improved health and well-being of New Mexico.

We propose to create a mechanism to facilitate American Indian Health Care Reform planning. This mechanism would serve as a vehicle to position New Mexico's tribal governments and communities to capitalize on the many opportunities and benefits, both within New Mexico and nationally, resulting from the new health care reform laws and the reauthorization of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act.

The following technical and administrative support activities will assist tribal communities to participate fully in New Mexico health care reform:

- Seek and secure state, federal and other sources of funding
- Facilitate the creation of strategic partnerships and collaborations to maximize resources, strengthen funding requests, and expand health systems
- Provide training and technical support to increase the capacity of tribal communities to build, strengthen or expand their health systems
- Research, analyze, and develop American Indian health policy
- Position tribal governments to initiate large-scale strategic health initiatives

The work undertaken will be tribally led with formal partners who have the capacity and capability to provide robust technical support and research assistance.

Key points:

- There are many new and exciting opportunities as a result of health care reform and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. We need to position ourselves to take full advantage of them by having a flexible mechanism available to respond.
- The State of NM will benefit by increased tribal participation and expansion of tribal health programs
- Exploration of current legislation to recommend changes that would enable tribes and the state to maximize federal resources contained in PPACA and IHCA
- This is a new opportunity to expand and strengthen sovereignty by allowing us to take immediate ownership of the many resources that are now available. But, also to contribute to the improved health and well-being of New Mexico.

For more information contact:

Ken Lucero, Director
RWJF Center for Native American Health Policy
505-220-4704
Klucero@indianpueblo.org

Roxane Spruce Bly, Director
Bernalillo County Off-Reservation Native
American Health Commission
505-239-0240
roxane.bly@gmail.com